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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SS-15

NSC-05 /059 W
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R 121818Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5099
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, FR
SUBJECT: CFDT GOES TO ISRAEL

REF: PARIS 28380

1. SUMMARY. EDMOND MAIRE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CFDT (CONFEDERATION FRANCAISE DEMOCRATIQUE DU TRAVAIL),JUST BACK FROM HIS TRIP TO CHINA IS DEPARTING 13 DECEMBER WITH A CFDT DELEGATION FOR A 5-DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL AS GUESTS OF HISTADRUT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LAST FEW YEARS CFDT HAS BEEN GRADUALLY MODIFYING ITS PAST ALL-OUT SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL TO ALLOW FOR MORE SENSITIVITY TO THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF THIS CHANGE OF ATTITUDE FIRST ON THE PART OF RANK AND FILE AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY CFDT LEADERS WAS DEVELOPED AT LAST TWO CFDT CONGRESSES (1970 AND 1973) WHEN THE HISTADRUT REPRESENTATIVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ADDRESS THE DELEGATES WITHOUT UNFRIENDLY INTERRUPTIONS. CONSEQUENTLY HISTADRUT
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ATTACHED SOME IMPORTANCE TO ITS INVITATION TO CFDT

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WHICH EXPLAINS PERHAPS THE SATISFACTION WITH WHICH HISTADRUT'S EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE (HALEVY) SPOKE TO LABATT RECENTLY ABOUT PROSPECT OF CFDT DELEGATION VISITING ISRAEL. HE THOUGHT THAT THIS REPRESENTED SOMETHING OF A BREAKTHROUGH WHICH, DEPENDING UPON WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE VISIT, MAY BRING CFDT BACK TO A MORE FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS ISRAEL. HOWEVER, HISTADRUT SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS. CFDT LEADERS ARE CONVINCED THAT A VIABLE SOLUTION TO ME SITUATION DEPENDS UPON ITS BEING ACCEPTABLE TO PALESTINIANS. MAIRE CAN BE EXPECTED TO EXPRESS THIS VIEW FORCEFULLY TO HIS HOSTS

3. THE CFDT DELEGATION CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO ASK CRITICAL QUESTIONS AND TO FOCUS SPECIAL ATTENTION ON THE TREATMENT ACCORDED WITHIN AND OUTSIDE HISTADRUT TO ISRAELI ARAB WORKERS AS WELL AS THOSE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

4. HISTADRUT'S INVITATION TO CFDT DID NOT FAIL TO ELICIT CRITICAL COMMENT IN FORCE OUVRIERE CIRCLES WHICH TOOK THE POSITION THAT HISTADRUT SHOULD LIMIT ITS CONTACTS TO STEADY FRIENDS LIKE FO RATHER THAN SHOW SUCH A SOLICITOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS WAVERING FRIENDS LIKE CFDT. INTERESTINGLY, IRVING BROWN OF AFL-CIO HAS HIS OWN DOUBTS ABOUT USEFULNESS OF HISTADRUT'S INVITATION. PROBABLY FO'S AND BROWN'S ATTITUDES ARE DICTATED BY THEIR HARD LINE JUDGMENT OF CFDT'S LEFTWING ORIENTATION AND ESPECIALLY ITS ALLIANCE WITH CGT ON FRENCH LABOR SCENE.

5. FOR MORE BACKGROUND INFO ON CFDT WE ARE REPEATING REFTEL TO TEL AVIV.

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